

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7698
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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USEEC

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TAGS: EEC, EP, PEPR, ECIN, TU
SUBJ: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT JULY SESSION DISCUSSES
EC-TURKISH RELATIONS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 10314 (B) BRUSSELS 10311

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 4, AS A RESULT OF TWO ORAL QUESTIONS TO THE EC COMMISSION AND COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP) DEBATED THE STATUS OF EC-TURKEY RELATIONS. THE HOUSE EXPRESSED UNANIMOUS CONCERN OVER THE GRADUAL EROSION OF EC-TURKISH TIES AND CALLED FOR THE REACTIVATION OF THE EC-TURKEY ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH A VIEW TO HELPING TURKEY OVERCOME ITS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. RESPONDING TO THE DEBATE, EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT NATALI AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT VON DOHNANYI (GERMAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS) AGREED THAT TURKEY'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EC SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AND STRENGTHENED,
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AND ANNOUNCED THAT STEPS ARE ALREADY BEING UNDERTAKEN TO REACTIVATE THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. INTRODUCING ON BEHALF OF ALL THE EP POLITICAL GROUPS AND THE EP POLITICAL COMMITTEE TWO QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION AND THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE STATUS OF EC-TURKEY RELATIONS, GERMAN SOCIALIST HANSEN AND BELGIAN

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT BERTRAND EXPRESSED THE HOUSE'S COLLECTIVE CONCERN OVER THE GRADUAL EROSION OF TURKEY'S PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EC CAUSED BY THE CONCLUSION OF EC PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, AND BY THE PROSPECT OF GREECE'S ACCESSION TO THE COMMUNITY. AS A RESULT, THEY OBSERVED, EC-TURKEY RELATIONS HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY STRAINED. THEY EMPHASIZED THAT THE EC HAS AN OBLIGATION TO HELP TURKEY ECONOMICALLY, TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT GREECE'S ENTRY WILL NOT PREJUDICE TURKISH INTERESTS AND TO INTENSIFY AND MAINTAIN POLITICAL LINKS WITH TURKEY. THEY WELCOMED THE REVIVAL OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE EC AND TURKEY RESULTING FROM PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S VISIT TO THE COMMISSION LAST MAY (REF A) WHICH, THEY HOPED, WILL SERVE AS AN IMPETUS TO REACTIVATE THE EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION. SPEAKERS FROM ALL THE EP POLITICAL GROUPS ECHOED THESE SENTIMENTS, UNDERSCORING IN VARYING DEGREES TURKEY'S IMPORTANCE TO NATO AND THE WEST AND THE NECESSITY FOR AVOIDING ACTIONS WHICH WOULD FURTHER UNDERMINE ITS TIES WITH THE EC. SEVERAL SPEAKERS FELT TURKEY IS JUSTIFIED IN WHAT THEY CHARACTERIZED AS ITS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY'S AND THE US' APPARENT LACK OF INTEREST IN ITS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, AND A FEW MPS URGED JOINT EC-NINE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF TURKEY'S EXTERNAL DEBT. OTHERS SUGGESTED THAT EC ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF HELPING IT

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RESTRUCTURE ITS AGRICULTURE AND ADOPT MORE REALISTIC EXPORT POLICIES AIMED AT AVOIDING PLACING EC AND TURKISH PRODUCTS IN COMPETITION. A NUMBER OF MPS ALSO FELT THAT TURKEY SHOULD BE BROUGHT MORE CLOSELY INTO THE EC-NINE'S POLITICAL COOPERATION PROCESS.

3. REPLYING TO THE DEBATE, COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT NATALI AGREED WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING AND STRENGTHENING EC-TURKISH RELATIONS AND REGRETTED THAT THESE HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO STAGNATE. NATALI NOTED THAT ECEVIT'S MAY 25 STATEMENT IN BRUSSELS (REF B) PROVIDES A SOLID BASIS FOR CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE WHICH, HE SAID, WILL BE RESUMED AT THE EXPERTS LEVEL IN JULY FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXAMINING THE TYPE OF EC AID TO BE EXTENDED TO TURKEY. SPEAKING FOR THE COUNCIL, VON DOHNANYI ECHOED NATALI'S VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING EC-TURKISH TIES, NOTING THAT PAST UNCERTAINTY REGARDING THE TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP TURKEY WISHED WITH THE EC HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE COOLED RELATIONSHIP. HE WAS UNWILLING TO DETAIL THE STEPS BEING UNDERTAKEN TO REACTIVATE THE EC-TURKISH ASSOCIATION, BUT NOTED THAT IT "WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT....BEFORE

THE COMMISSION PREPARES OVERALL PROPOSALS." THE COMMUNITY, HE ADDED, IS PREPARED TO EXAMINE WITH TURKEY POSSIBLE WAYS OF HELPING MOVE TURKEY TOWARD THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE FORM OF RELATIONS WITH THE EC. REGARDING TURKEY'S PARTICIPATION IN EC-NINE POLITICAL COOPERATION DELIBERATIONS, VON DOHNANYI SAID THAT THE NINE HAVE DECIDED TO SUGGEST A MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND WILL BE MAKING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MODALITIES.

4. THE DEBATE CONCLUDED WITH THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION WHICH, INTER ALIA: REQUESTS THE COUNCIL AND THE

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COMMISSION, IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, TO IMMEDIATELY REINVIGORATE THE EC-TURKEY ASSOCIATION IN ORDER TO HELP TURKEY OVERCOME ITS PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES; CALLS UPON THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO SUBMIT SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR THE REACTIVATION OF THE EC-TURKEY ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT; AND EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THE EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION WILL EXAMINE THE REAL POSSIBILITIES FOR ENABLING TURKEY TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR WORK. (COMMENT: THE EUROPEAN PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATIC GROUP--FRENCH GAULLISTS--OBJECTED TO THIS LAST POINT IN THE RESOLUTION, STATING THAT PARTICIPATION IN EC-9 POLITICAL COOPERATION DELIBERATIONS SHOULD BE RESERVED SOLELY FOR THE MEMBER

STATES. THEY CONSEQUENTLY ABSTAINED ON THIS PARAGRAPH.)

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